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Autism, the numbers:

- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the nation.
- Affects 1 in 45 individuals in the U.S.
- Numbers are increasing by 10 17 % annually
- Autism is more prevalent in boys than in girls by three to one
- Causes are unknown

Autism and Law Enforcement:

People with developmental disabilities are 7 times more likely to encounter law enforcement than typical individuals

Reasons Law Enforcement Might Be Called:

- Wandering/elopement
- Self-injurious or repetitive behavior
- Peering into windows of cars or homes
- Moving merchandise around stores
- Turning faucets or lights on and off
- Erroneous reports of child abuse or assault against adult caregiver, who is actually trying to calm autistic person.
- Parents need help de-escalating a crisis in the home.

Risks to Autistic Population:

Wandering/elopement:

- Close to half of autistic children are prone to wandering and will attempt to roam from a safe environment.
- Accidental drowning accounts for 91% of deaths reported in children with autism under the age of 14. Traffic deaths come in second.



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Risks to Autistic Population continued:

- Victimization: more than 35% of people with autism are crime victims.
- Unintended crimes: autistic people are very gullible and often don't understand when they are being manipulated.
- Unintended injury: communication disorders can lead to misunderstandings with local community members, classmates, co-workers and first responders.

Identifying Autism:

- Speech and communication issues
- Social and behavioral symptoms

Responding to a call:

 How to maximize the chances of a positive outcome

Group Breakout Session – Scenarios:

- 1. How do you keep yourself and others safe?
- 1. What to look for to assess behavior could this be someone with autism?
- 1. Come up with strategies for de-escalating and resolving situation.











